

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

A SENSING DEVICE FOR A SAFETY BELT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

a) Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a sensing device for a safety belt, and in particular, to a sensing device which can be connected to the safety belt to sense and to record the pulling force of the safety belt caused by an impact, direction of the impact and the impact force, so as to provide a status proof of fastening the safety belt.

b) Description of the Prior Art

As shown in Fig. 1, the conventional safety belt includes a fastening plate 1 and a fastening seat 2. When the fastening plate 1 is inserted into the seat 2, the safety belt can provide a mere function of holding the user. The conventional belt does not have a sensing function. It is very common that the driver or the passenger forgets to put on the safety belt when he gets into the car. When the car hits a big object, or a great impact has occurred to the car, the driver or the passengers may be hurt if the belt has not been put on properly.

In a school bus carrying a number of school children, it is possible that some school boys play with the belt as if the belt is a toy by frequently releasing and fastening on the safety belt. It may not have sufficient number of guardians in the school bus to look after the children. Therefore, the children without putting on the belt may be hurt if an accident or an impact is caused to the bus. This is because the conventional belt does not have a sensing device to provide a warning signal to the user.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a sensing device for a safety belt, wherein the sensing device can be connected to a safety belt and the sensing device is provided with an enumerating recording switch to provide an enumerating recording signal with respect to seat belt fastening.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a sensing device for a safety belt, wherein the sensing device can be connected to a signal processor to process the signals transmitted from the sensing device.

5 Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a sensing device for a safety belt, wherein a pulling force recording unit is mounted such that the unit can precisely record the instantaneous pulling force of the safety belt when an impact to the car is occurred.

10 It is another object of the present invention to provide a sensing device for a safety belt, wherein an impact status recording unit is provided to the sensing device such that the impact force and the direction of impact can be precisely recorded if an impact to the car is occurred.

15 Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a sensing device for a safety belt, wherein the sensing device is compact and portable.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a sensing device for a safety belt, wherein the sensing device can be mounted together with the fastening
20 seat of any conventional safety belt.

Additional advantages of this invention will become apparent from the description which follows, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic view of a conventional safety belt fastener.

30 Fig. 2 is a schematic perspective view of a sensing device to be mounted to a safety belt in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the sensing device for a safety belt in accordance with the present invention.

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Fig. 4 is a perspective exploded view of the sensing device in accordance with the present invention.

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Fig. 18 is a perspective view of a signal processor in combination with the sensing device mounted with the safety belt.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 1 illustrate a conventional safety belt. In application, the belt provides a pulling protection to the wearer. The conventional safety belt does not provide a
10 sensing device to record the status of application of the belt.

Referring to Fig. 2, there is shown the sensing device to be mounted to the safety belt. As shown in Fig. 3, the sensing device 3 has one protruded fastening loop 6 insertable into a mounting slot 91 of the fastening seat 2 of the safety belt. One
15 edge of the sensing device 3 is provided with a fastening recess 92. A releasing button 25 is mounted on one lateral face of the sensing device 3 for the releasing of the fastening plate 1 of the safety belt from the sensing device 3. On the opposite lateral side of the sensing device 3, a stencil plate 26 with function indication is provided. Along one edge of the sensing device 3, a signal socket 30 is mounted.

Referring to Fig. 4, there is shown a perspective view of the sensing device of the present invention. The sensing device 3 comprises a tightening unit 100 for
20 mounting with the fastening plate 1 of the safety belt; a pulling force recording unit 200 for mounting to the fastening seat 2 of the safety belt; an impact status recording unit 300; a fastening status recording unit 400; a record indication unit 500.

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The tightening unit 100 comprises an engaging element 101 and a releasing button 25. The engaging element 101 is mounted adjacent to the lateral face close to the releasing button 25 for engaging with the fastening plate 1 of the safety belt. As shown in Fig. 5, the engaging element 101 comprises a fastening board 28 having one
30 end mounted with a rotating shaft 29 having a twisting spring 82. The reverse twisting of the spring 82 causes the fastening board 28 to produce an engaging action.

Fig. 6 is a perspective exploded view of the sensing device 3. On an indication circuit board 72, there are mounted with two timing indication circuits 102,
35 103, a time adjusting button 104, an impact indication light 105, at least one battery 106, a plurality of ICs 107, and a signal line connector 108. At normal circumstance, the two timing indication circuits 12, 103 record time simultaneously and are controlled by the time adjusting button 104. If an impact is occurred, one timing

As shown in Fig. 11, if an impact is occurred, the fastening loop 6 is pulled out to a distance which has corresponding layers 50, 51, 52, 53 and are conductive and output a corresponding resistance value.

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As shown in the figure, the impact status record unit 300 is connected to the elastic mounting unit 109 which is connected to the record indication unit 500. As shown in Fig. 12, the unit 500 has a circuit board 16 comprises a pendulum 96 having a heavy weight body 18 at one end. The pendulum 96 is made from a conductive material. At the end closer to the heavy weight body 18, a fastener body 114 having a pressing tip 59 to press the circuit board 16 is provided. At the lateral side of the fastener body 114, a pressing contact 58 is provided. A thin spring 19 is mounted across the edge of the board 16. On the arc-shaped path formed by the swinging movement of the pressing tip 59, a plurality of engaging recesses 61 is formed on the board 16. On the arc-shaped path formed by the swinging of the pressing contact 58, a resistance membrane 60 is formed on the board 16. A pair of mounting hooks 17 are mounted on the board 16 to engage to one end of the thin spring 19. The other end of the spring 19 is connected to the pendulum 96, such that the board 16 is connected to the pendulum 96 and formed a conductive circuit, which is connected, together with the circuit of the resistance membrane 60, to the connecting point of the record indication unit 500. Thus, after the pendulum 96 is mounted to the circuit board 16 and by means of the balancing effect of the two thin springs 19, the pendulum 96 is maintained at the center. Thus, the pendulum 96 is used as a switch by means of sensing vibration moment.

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Referring to Fig. 3, a schematic view illustrating the movement of the pendulum. When an accident is occurred, the instantaneous force produced by the impact is greater than the pulling force of the thin spring 19 such that the pendulum 96 swings to a position with minimum kinetic energy. The pressing tip 59 is engaged with the engaging recess 61 such that the pendulum 96 is deadlly engaged and fixed. At the same time, the pressing contact 58 slides to contact with the resistance membrane 60 at the corresponding position such that the resistance value at that position is transmitted out. The impact force, and direction of impact can be converted into a corresponding resistance value which can be electrically analyzed and the indication of impact is shown in pound.

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Figs. 14 to 17 are circuit diagrams, and the structure, and the principle are corresponding to the above described recording indication unit 500.

In application of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 18, the signal socket 30 of the sensing device is connected with a signal line 83 to the signal processor 90 for signal processing. The signal processor 90 possesses the ability to determine signals such as unfastening of safety belt, in appropriateness of belt-releasing, so that a signal or an alarming sound is provided.

Many changes, modifications, variations and uses of the present application will become apparent to those skilled in the art after considering this specification and the accompanying drawing which disclose the preferred embodiment thereof. All such changes, modification, variations and other uses which do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention are deemed to be covered by the invention which is limited by the claims which follow.

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